

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 NIC-01 OMB-01 DRC-01

/098 W

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O R 071900Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3614

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

USMISSION NATO

DIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 3235

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: ITALIAN GOVERNMENT CRISIS

REF: ROME 3229

DIA FOR A2 AND DI5

1. PRI LEADER AND OUTGOING TREASURY MINISTER LA MALFA ASKED

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AMBASSADOR TO CALL LATE AFTERNOON MARCH 7. PURPOSE AS IT TURNED

OUT WAS TO HAVE FINAL TALK AS MEMBER OF FALLEN RUMOR GOVERNMENT.

2. LA MALFA WAS DISCOURAGED AND CONCERNED WITH DIFFICULTIES THAT LIE AHEAD, PARTICULARLY DURING NEXT FEW MONTHS COVERING REFERENDUM CAMPAIGN AND AFTERMATH. HE REFERRED TO THIS FORTHCOMING CONTEST AS A BATTLE BETWEEN FANFANI AND PCI LEADER BERLINGUER: A BATTLE WHOSE OUTCOME NOT CLEAR.

3. WITH REGARD TO HIS OWN FUTURE HE WAS QUITE CLEAR THAT HE PERSONALLY COULD NOT ENTER NEW GOVERNMENT AND THAT HE INTENDED TO PERSIST IN HIS RESIGNATION AS PRI PARTY SECRETARY. HE SAID THAT PRI ALSO WOULD NOT PARTICIPATE: THAT OUTSIDE SUPPORT WAS AS MUCH AS PRI COULD OFFER NEW GOVERNMENT, BUT THAT OUTSIDE SUPPORT WOULD BE FORTHCOMING.

4. COMMENT: WILLINGNESS OF PRI TO GIVE OUTSIDE SUPPORT TO THREE PARTY (DC-PSI-PSDI) GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE WELCOME ASSIST TO RUMOR'S EFFORTS TO PUT NEW GOVERNMENT TOGETHER QUICKLY, EVEN THOUGH IT FALLS SHORT OF PREFERRED FOUR PARTY SOLUTION. PRI WILLINGNESS TO GIVE OUTSIDE SUPPORT IS ONLY ONE FACTOR, BUT A HELPFUL ONE. REACTION OF OTHER PROSPECTIVE COALITION MEMBERS TO RUMOR'S PROGRAM AND TO PRI RELUCTANCE TO PARTICIPATE REMAINS TO BE SEEN. WE ALSO NOTE THAT WHILE LA MALFA INSISTED HE WOULD "REMAIN IN HIS TENT", WE CAN BE SURE HE WILL AGAIN BE STRONGLY URGED TO WITHDRAW HIS RESIGNATION AS PARTY SECRETARY WHEN IT IS CONSIDERED AT FORTHCOMING SESSION OF PRI NATIONAL COUNCIL. VOLPE

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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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